Accountability Report
2014–2015

Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture

NOVA SCOTIA

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Accountability Statement

The accountability report of the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture for the year ended March 31, 2015 is prepared pursuant to the Finance Act and government policies and guidelines. These authorities require the reporting of outcomes against the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture Statement of Mandate for the fiscal year just ended. The reporting of the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture outcomes necessarily includes estimates, judgments and opinions by department management.

We acknowledge that this accountability report is the responsibility of Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture management. The report is, to the extent possible, a complete and accurate representation of outcomes relative to the goals and priorities set out in the department's 2014-2015 Statement of Mandate.

Honourable Keith Colwell, E.C.N.S.
Minister

Kim MacNeil
Deputy Minister

Message from the Minister

I am pleased to present the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture accountability report for 2014-2015.

The fisheries and aquaculture sectors remain central to the future of Nova Scotia's coastal rural communities. Helping the sectors expand their reach to new markets and increasing their value to our export economy remains a priority for the provincial government.

In 2014-2015, the department committed resources to developing our most valuable fishery, the lobster industry. A $250,000 investment in export marketing for lobster targeted the valuable Chinese market through an online shopping and social media promotion tied to Chinese New Year celebrations. The campaign focused on the high quality of Canadian hard-shell lobster from Nova Scotia and built valuable linkages with a growing market for our seafood.

The Doelle-Lahey panel released the results of its consultation on developing a modern regulatory framework for the aquaculture industry. The department took the first steps in acting on the panel's advice with amendments to the Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act to create a more rigourous and transparent approach to monitoring the industry. In 2015-16, government will build on these initial steps with new regulations on licensing and leasing, fish health and environmental monitoring.

I encourage Nova Scotians to visit the department's newly refreshed website at www.gov.ns.ca/fish to learn more about how fisheries and aquaculture is contributing to a bright future for our province.

Honourable Keith Colwell, E.C.N.S.
Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Financial Results

Fisheries and Aquaculture

	2014-15 Estimate ($thousands)	2014-15 Actual ($thousands)
Administration	786	771
Aquaculture	2,773	2,353
Inland Fisheries	2,119	2,637
Marine Fisheries	3,944	3,650
Product Development	0	0
Total Gross Departmental Expenses	**9,622**	**9,411**
Additional Information		
Other Fees and Charges	(929)	(972)
Ordinary Recoveries	0	(1)
TCA Purchase Requirements	30	0
Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs)	**76.77**	**67.53**

Measuring our Performance

Sustainable Resource Management

SQUARE METERS OF INLAND FISH HABITAT RESTORED

The department administers the Sportfish Habitat Fund as the primary revenue source for the Adopt-A-Stream program, which supports projects aimed at improving access to recreational fishing. Adopt-A-Stream supports community groups working to restore and rehabilitate fish habitat. Funding for this program comes from a $5.71 levy on each angling licence sold. This investment is matched by cash and in-kind contributions from community groups on a 3 to 1 basis. The economic model for Adopt-A-Stream estimates that each square meter of restored habitat is valued at about $13.

WHAT DOES THE MEASURE TELL US?

This measure shows the number of square meters of fish and riparian habitat restored along Nova Scotia's inland waters and streams. It compares this value to the target set for this fiscal year and to the value of the previous fiscal year.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The annual target for this fiscal year was 115,000 square meters of fish habitat restored. In 2014, the department helped 23 community groups restore approximately 170,000 square meters of fish habitat. This is an increase of 32% above what was restored in the previous fiscal year, which was 129,000 square meters. Through restored fish passage at 20 culvert crossings, an additional 40 km of aquatic habitat was made accessible to migrating fish. Remediation assessment was made at an additional 208 blocked or partially blocked culverts. Across the province, 431 volunteers contributed 9357 hours of their time and 89 seasonal jobs were created. More than 1.2 million square meters of aquatic habitat have been restored since the program's inception.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE IN THE FUTURE?

The department aims to restore 115,000 square meters annually through this program.

NUMBER OF TROUT AND SALMON STOCKED IN LAKES AND RIVERS

Stocking lakes and rivers in Nova Scotia with trout and salmon provides sport fishing opportunities throughout the province. Enhancing sport fish populations allows increased effort on these populations while conserving wild stocks. Stocked lakes also provide opportunities for directed activities such as fishing derbies, winter sport fishing and learn to fish events.

WHAT DOES THE MEASURE TELL US?

This measure shows the number of sport fish stocked in Nova Scotia's lakes and rivers on a yearly basis and compares it to the target set for this fiscal year and the value of the 2013-14 fiscal year.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?
The annual target for this fiscal year was 1,800,000 trout and salmon stocked. Results for Nova Scotia from the 2014 stocking program show that 1,908,000 trout and salmon were stocked. This is above that of the previous year's total of 1,800,000 trout and salmon stocked and with the target for 2014-15 of 1,800,000 sport fish stocked.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE IN THE FUTURE?
The department aims to maintain existing stocking levels while looking at opportunities to use hatchery produced fish to promote and develop Nova Scotia's sport fishing sector.

NUMBER OF SPORT FISHING LICENCES SOLD
Sport fishing continues to be one of Nova Scotia's most popular outdoor recreational activities. The department sells licences to resident and non-resident anglers to sport fish in the province.

WHAT DOES THE MEASURE TELL US?
This measure shows the number of anglers who are actively participating in Nova Scotia's sport fishing sector represented by the number of sportfishing licenses sold. It compares the actual number of sportfishing licenses sold to the target set for this fiscal year. It also compares this fiscal year to that of the previous.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?
The annual target for this fiscal year was 70,000 sportfishing licenses sold. Results for Nova Scotia from the 2014 sales indicate that 65,077 adult anglers purchased a sport fishing licence. This is a slight decrease from the previous year's total of 67,322 sportfishing licenses sold, but within an acceptable range of meeting the target for 2014-15.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE IN THE FUTURE?
The department aims to increase participation in Nova Scotia's sport fishing sector over time with continued promotions and programs aimed at attracting new and non-resident anglers, youth and women. An ageing angling population continues to present a challenge.

Industry Growth and Development

VALUE OF AQUACULTURE FISH AND SEAFOOD HARVESTED
The aquaculture industry in Nova Scotia is very diverse in terms of species cultivated, location of the industry, and methods of operation. Aquaculture is most strongly associated with rural communities, and has been identified by both the Doelle-Lahey panel, and the Ivany Commission, as a potential contributor to rural revitalization. Nova Scotia's natural advantages in terms of coastline and marine industry expertise enables the province to be well-positioned to meet global food demands through sustainable aquaculture practices.

WHAT DOES THE MEASURE TELL US?
This measure shows the dollar value of sales from Nova Scotia's aquaculture farms and compares it to the target set for this fiscal year and to the value of the previous fiscal year. Using this measure, the average level and trend in Nova Scotia's share of national level is also examined.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?
The annual target for this fiscal year was $85 million. Preliminary reports indicate that Nova Scotia's aquaculture industry generated $59 million in 2014, consistent with last year's production value of approximately $53 million. Atlantic Salmon and Rainbow Trout continue to generate both the highest volume and value. Between 2009 and 2013, Nova Scotia's share of the national level of aquaculture fish and seafood harvested has fluctuated between 4.6% and 7.2%, averaging at 5.7%.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE IN THE FUTURE?
The Department expects the value of aquaculture production to increase in a consistent and incremental manner as the new Regulatory Framework is put in place. Increased public confidence and interest from existing operators and new investors will enable the aquaculture industry to grow at a responsible pace.

NUMBER OF JOBS RELATED TO PRIMARY AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION AND AQUACULTURE SEAFOOD PROCESSING
In 2012, the Department developed a strategy for the long-term sustainable development of Nova Scotia's aquaculture industry. A key component of this strategy was the creation of a world-class regulatory framework for Aquaculture in Nova Scotia. The Doelle-Lahey Independent Aquaculture Review Panel provided Government with a series of recommendations relating to reforming aquaculture governance in the Province. As these recommendations are implemented through Legislation and Policy, it is anticipated that industry growth will be enabled to allow employment numbers to increase.

WHAT DOES THE MEASURE TELL US?
This measure will capture change in the number of full-time and part-time jobs related to Nova Scotia aquaculture. It compares this value to the target set for this fiscal year and to that of the 2013-14 fiscal year.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?
The annual target for this fiscal year was 650 individuals employed in the aquaculture industry. Preliminary results indicate that the number of individuals employed in the aquaculture industry in Nova Scotia in 2014 was 640 people. This is similar to that of the previous fiscal year at 636 aquaculture jobs.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE IN THE FUTURE?

The province would like to see this increase in employment numbers continue as the industry is developed in a sustainable manner. Recent changes to the Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act, and forthcoming changes to Regulation and Policy, are intended to increase both public confidence and business confidence, which will allow responsible industry growth. An increased focus on site utilization will aim to ensure that Nova Scotians are receiving optimum benefit from the use of their public resources. Focus on encouraging existing sites to operate at capacity, and issuing new licences where appropriate, is intended to lead to increased employment in the industry and across the supply chain.

FISHERIES AND SEAFOOD PRODUCT EXPORTS

Seafood products are Nova Scotia's second leading category of exports, and are an important industry in terms of the province's long-term economic growth. The department continues to promote seafood exports through ongoing trade initiatives such as participation in major international trade shows and incoming and outgoing buyer missions.

WHAT DOES THE MEASURE TELL US?

The measure shows the overall value of Nova Scotia's seafood exports. It compares the actual overall value of Nova Scotia's seafood exports to the target set for this fiscal year. It also compares this fiscal year to that of the previous. It also compares Nova Scotia's current share of national level to that of the previous fiscal year.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The annual target for this fiscal year was $1.1 billion. Nova Scotia exported $1.26 billion worth of seafood in 2014, up 19.4% from the previous year ($1.05 million in 2013). Nova Scotia's seafood market has grown steadily from a recent low in 2009, as the world economy recovered from the late 2000s recession. Nova Scotia's share of the national level of fish and seafood exports has increased to 25% in 2014 from 23% in the previous year.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE IN THE FUTURE?

The department aims to see an increase in seafood exports over the long-term. Ongoing support will include targeted development initiatives to increase product values, and market diversification. Exports have been increasing for the past several years from the low in 2010 experienced during the worldwide recession. The 10 year target, adopted from the ONE NS Commission, is to double exports by 2024 (Goal 15). Given the level of fisheries (including aquaculture) exports when the report was prepared for the Commission by Atlantic Province Economic Council (APEC), the 10 year target is $1.72 billion.

Appendix A

Annual Report under Section 18 of the *Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act*

The following is a summary of disclosures received by the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Information Required under Section 18 of the Act	Fiscal Year 2014-2015
The number of disclosures received	0
The number of findings of wrongdoing	0
Details of each wrongdoing	N/A
Recommendations and actions taken on each wrongdoing	N/A